

From Student to Scientist ...

Innaugural SULI program draws praise from students and mentors

In eight short weeks this summer, 10 undergraduate students from colleges and universities across the country experienced life in a real-world research setting in laboratories at the Ames Lab. The students were at the Lab as part of the Department of Energy's Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship, or SULI, program.

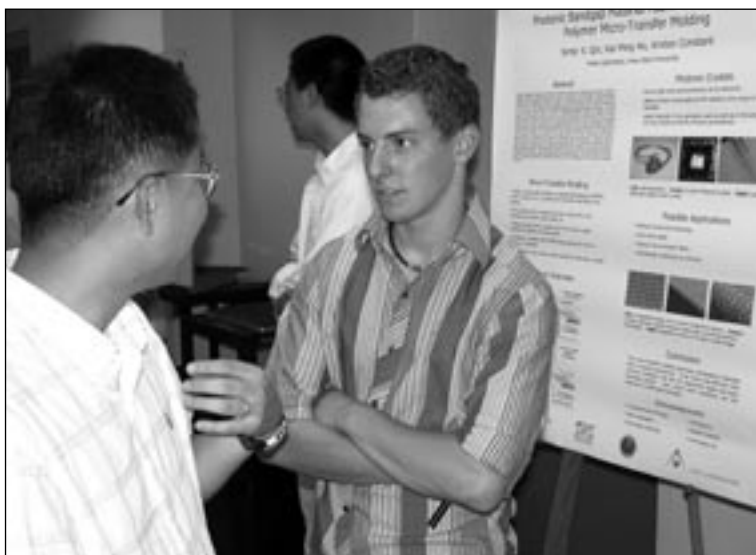
Although the internships focused on the research the students performed in laboratories under their mentors' guidance, along the way there was also time for other enrichment activities, such as presentations, tours and fun. The 2005 SULI program culminated in a student research poster presentation August 4, which was enthusiastically attended by scientists, staff and students.

The following comments are just two of the many positive thoughts expressed by both students and mentors about their experiences in the SULI program.



"The SULI program opened my eyes to diversity in the chemistry field as well as basic organic chemistry lab techniques that aren't always taught in the classroom. I worked alongside researchers, something I don't have the opportunity to do at the small school I attend. I am thankful for the brilliant interns, students, and staff I met this summer, and I am thankful for the opportunity the SULI program gave me to further my education in a way I never imagined."

~ Amanda DeVries (student with George Kraus)



Travis Monk is asked a question about his research on photonic bandgap materials during the student poster session.

"My experience with the SULI program is colored (brightly) by the extremely high quality of the student, Shamus Cronin, that I worked with this summer. Shamus was the ideal prototype of a SULI student, willing and able to jump into the project that we designed and always friendly and positive. I only hope that he got half as much enjoyment out of his experience as I and my group members received during his stay at Ames Lab. His experimental results were of high (publishable) value and his careful analysis will help us to develop at least one new manuscript. My only complaint is that the program was too short. Sign me up again!"

~ Iver Anderson (mentor)



SULI students (left to right) David Sauer, Thomas Maloney, Amanda DeVries, Shamus Cronin, Andrew Shuff, Brian Langstraat and Chris Wong get taken out to the ballgame as part of the Ames Lab/IPRT employees trip to a Cubs game.



Brian Langstraat, Shamus Cronin and Chris Wong up their "cool" factor by donning the appropriate eyewear before entering the C6 virtual reality chamber.